

County Profile: Camden

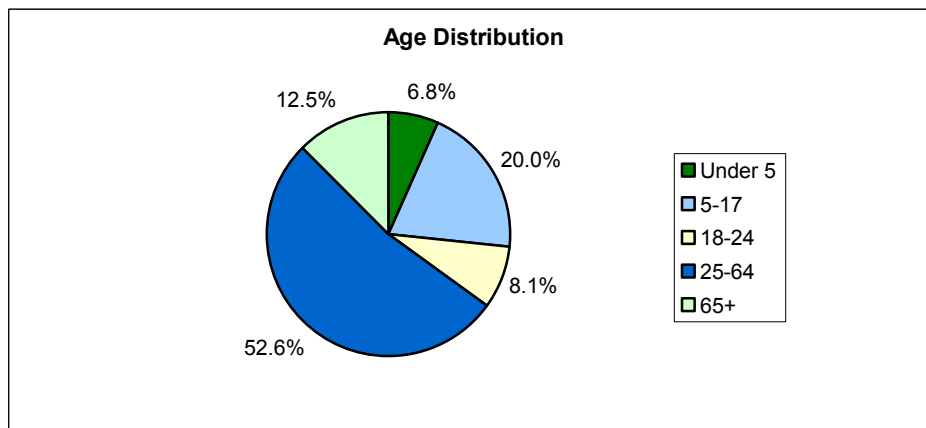


General Demographics

According to the 2000 U.S. Census, 508,932 individuals reside in Camden County's 37 municipalities. These individuals are spread out over a land area of 222.3 square miles, which translates into a population density of 2,289.4 persons per square mile. This makes Camden County the 8th most populous of the state's 21 counties. The county has six municipalities that account for about 60% of the total population. The remaining municipalities are substantially smaller, including two communities with total populations of fewer than 25 residents (Pine Valley Borough and Tavistock Borough).

At 1.2%, Camden County grew less from 1990 to 2000 than all but one other county. The largest city, Camden, declined in population by 8.7%. However, some municipalities experienced growth, including Gloucester township (total 2000 population – 64,350) which increased by 19.6% and Voorhees (total 2000 population – 28,126) and Winslow townships (total 2000 population – 34,611), which each increased by about 15%.

Camden County has 136,148 children under the age of 18. They comprise 26.8% of the county's total population and 6.5% of the state's child population. Approximately 61% of Camden County residents are of working age (18 through 64), and 12.5% are 65 years and older. Camden County has the second largest percentage of children in the state.



Child Welfare

Camden County's portion of statewide child abuse and neglect referrals exceeds the proportion of children residing in the county. While 6.5% of all children in New Jersey reside in Camden County, 11.3%, or 4,382 of the child abuse and neglect referrals are generated there. The patterns of abuse and neglect differ somewhat from the state pattern. There are more referrals for neglect and slightly fewer referrals for physical abuse in Camden County compared to the state.

Child Abuse and Neglect Referrals in 2001

	Camden County		New Jersey	
	N	%	N	%
Physical abuse	1,170	26.7	12,382	32.0
Emotional abuse	25	0.6	330	0.9
Sexual	204	4.7	2,179	5.6
Neglect	2,745	62.6	22,099	57.1
Multiple types	238	5.4	1,716	4.4
<i>Total</i>	4,382	---	38,706	---
Substantiated rate per 1,000 children	8.2	---	4.0	---
Percent substantiated	25.4	---	21.8	---

In the two Camden County District Offices, the active DYFS caseload is 5,567 children and 3,209 families. There are 445 in-state foster homes in Camden County. There are 663 Camden County children in foster care, which is 8.5% of the 7,807 children in foster care in New Jersey and more than the percentage of children residing in this county. Of the Camden County children in foster care, 41.5% reside in a different county than their family, which is similar to the out-of-county statewide average of 44.6%.

From 1998 to 2002, fourteen children in Camden County died as a result of abuse and neglect out of a statewide total of 123. Eight of the families of these children had an open/active case with DYFS at the time of their death. The number of all infants who died in Camden County in 2000 was 58, 8.0% of the 723 infant deaths occurring in the state. The infant mortality rate of 8.3 deaths under the age of 1 per 1,000 live births was more than the statewide rate of 6.3.

Child Welfare Outcome Measures

Information on various child welfare outcomes for Camden County is presented in the following table.¹ The recurrence of maltreatment in foster care is above the national standard (7.7% vs. 6.1%). A smaller percentage of children are reunified with a parent or caretaker within 12 months (62.7%) compared to the national standard (76.2%). Compared to the national standard, a higher percentage of the county's children in

¹ See definitions that follow for detailed descriptions of the categories presented in this table.

foster care re-enter care within 12 months of a prior placement (10.0% compared to 8.6%), and a smaller percentage had no more than two placements, an indicator of placement stability.

2001 Child Welfare Outcome Measures by County

	Camden	State	National Standard
Recurrence of maltreatment	7.7%	6.4%	6.1% or less
A/N incidence in foster care	.55%	.78%	.57% or less
Reunify within 12 months without increasing re-entry	62.7%	59.5%	76.2% or more
Re-enter care within 12 months	10.0%	8.2%	8.6% or less
Reduce time in foster care to adoption	22.1%	16.3%	32.0% or more
Increase placement stability	80.9%	86.2%	86.7% or more

Note. Data supplied by DYFS

Definitions

Reduce recurrence of maltreatment – of children who were victims of substantiated or indicated child abuse and/or neglect during the first six months of the reporting period, the percentage who had another substantiated or indicated report within a six-month period.

A/N incidence in foster care – of children who were in foster care during the reporting period, the percentage that was the subject of a substantiated or indicated maltreatment by a foster parent or facility staff member.

Reunify within 12 months without increasing re-entry – of children reunified with parents or caretakers at time of discharge from foster care, the percentage reunified within 12 months.

Re-enter care within 12 months – of children who entered foster care during the reporting period, the percentage that re-entered care within 12 months of leaving foster care episode.

Reduce time in foster care to adoption – of all children who exited foster care to adoption, the percentage who exited within 24 months.

Increase placement stability – of all children who had been in foster care less than 12 months, the percentage who had no more than two placement settings during that time period.

Data Sources

DYFS Approved Foster Homes File, 8/4/03
DYFS Caseload Activity Report (DAR-SISM-5), 8/1/03
DYFS, Child Abuse and Neglect in New Jersey Statistical Report for 2000
DYFS Child Abuse and Neglect in New Jersey Statistical Report for 2001
DYFS Foster Care File Extract, 6/6/03
DYFS Statewide Summary of Foster Homes (DAR-PCISM-1), 7/4/03
NJ Substantiated Abuse and Neglect Child Fatality Analysis for 1998-2002, July 2003
U.S. Census Bureau, Census 1990
U.S. Census Bureau, Census 2000, Redistricting Data Summary File, Population for the Counties and Municipalities in New Jersey: 1990 and 2000 (PL1)
U.S. Census Bureau, Census 2000, Summary File 1, Geographic Comparison Table, Age and Sex (GCT-P5)
U.S. Census Bureau, Census 2000, Summary File 1, Geographic Comparison Table, Population, Housing Units, Area and Density (GCT-PH1-R)
U.S. Census Bureau, Census 2000, Summary File 1, Quick Table, QT-P2.
U.S. Census Bureau, Census 2000, Demographic Profiles, Profile of General Demographic Characteristics (DP-1)

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